

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100 Columbus, Ohio 43215 morpc.org T. 614. 228.2663 TTY. 1.800.750.0750 info@morpc.org

NOTICE OF A MEETING
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
City of Westerville Electric Division
139 East Broadway Ave
Westerville, Ohio 43219
April 19, 2023, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

AGENDA

2:30 – 2:40 pm	Welcome and Introductions – Ben Kessler, Chair
2:40 – 2:55 pm	Welcome & Green Team Updates from the City of Westerville – Carolyn Thurman, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Kevin Weaver, Director of Public Service Tara Trigg, Westerville Electric Division Business Manager
2:55 – 3:15 pm	Policy and Funding Updates – Joe Garrity and Brandi Whetstone, MORPC
3:15 – 3:25 pm	MORPC Sustainability Updates - Brandi Whetstone, MORPC
3:25 – 3:45 pm	 Working Group & Board Updates – Ben Kessler, Chair Sustaining Scioto Board: Glenn Marzluf Sustainable2050: Laurie Jadwin Energy & Air Quality Working Group – Matt Stephens-Rich Central Ohio Greenways Board: Mike Andrako
3:45 – 4:00 pm	New Business and Member Updates – Ben Kessler, Chair
4:00 pm	Adjourn – Ben Kessler, Chair

Please notify Lynn Kaufman at 614-233-4189 or LKaufman@morpc.org to confirm your attendance for this meeting or if you require special assistance.

The next Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting will be on June 21, 2023 at 2:30 pm



SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Brandi Whetstone, Sustainability Officer April 19, 2023



Environmental Sustainability

Director of Public Service **Kevin Weaver**

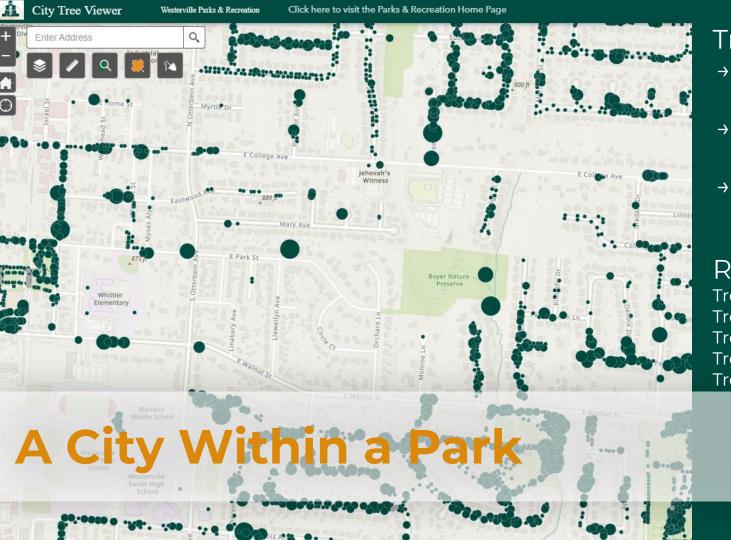
Electric Utility Business Manager **Tara Trigg**







WESTERVILLE



Tree Canopy

- → Currently 36% Goal 40%
- → 742 trees planted in 2022
- → Diversification of tree species

Recognition

Tree City USA (46) Tree Line USA (24) Tree City Growth (12) Tree Campus USA (5) Tree City of the World (3)



Ongoing Activities:

- → Autonomous electric mowers
- Reducing acreage mowed
- → Remote locks on buildings
- → Invasive species removal at Highlands
- → Wildlife habitat corridor
- → Pollinator habitat
- → Biodiversity
- → 34 Hybrids
- → 2 Electric vehicles
- → 1 Hybrid bucket truck on order
- → 1 Electric vehicle on order

Programs:

- → Wetlands Workshop
- → Make a Difference Day
- → Westerville Nature Team
- → Frog Fridays
- → FACT



Water Quality

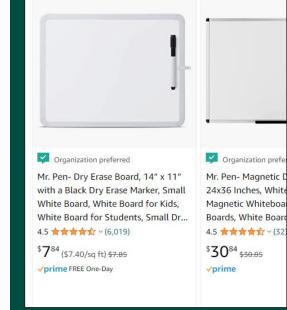
FSWCD - NPDES Partner

- → Property owner consultations
- → School education
- → Business education
- → Grants for native plants
- → Rain Garden design support
- → Locating septic systems

Administration and Facilities

- → Energy efficiency programs:
 - → Lighting Stations 111 and 112 and Council chambers
- → Amazon "Organization Preferred"
- → City Hall Project
- Evaluating rooftop solar at the community center







Organization preferred

- Admin note: "Sold by certified small and diverse sellers that your organization encourages you to buy from"
- Admin note: "This product is part of the Climate Pledge Friendly program. You're encouraged to buy this product over other alternatives."
- ▲ See less







RESIDENTIAL FLECTRIC VEHICLE OFF-PEAK CHARGING PROGRAM



\$4,000 post-installation incentive for commercial installation

Residential off-peak charging program









\$44,000 Contributed
12.1 million kilowatt hours









Enroll in the Nest Rush Hour Rewards program today!

WWW.WESTERVILLE.ORG/NEST



>920 active thermostats

Household Hazardous Waste Days

2022 Totals

- → 1,725 vehicles
- → 5,140 pounds of tires
- → 37,840 pounds of electronics
- → 84,660 pounds of bulbs, oils, pesticides, etc.
 - → Next Up: May 20, 2023





Composting

Drop off Program

- → 4 locations
- → 116,000 pounds in 2022
- → 42,000 pounds of pumpkins in 2022

Curbside Pick Up

→ SWACO targeting 2025







CITY OF WESTERVILLE

ZER®PLAIN WASTEPLAIN

WWW.WESTERVILLE.ORG/ZEROWASTE















Westerville Green Team

Membership

- → Advisory Board
- → Community partners, local groups, at-large members, businesses, material handling partners, Council, and staff
- → Additional members wanted and needed

2023 Projects

- Community event ambassadors
- → Restaurant partnerships
- → Zero waste guide for events
- → Evaluate foam recycling





foamcycle.com

Thank you!

kevin.weaver@westerville.org tara.trigg@westerville.org To pursue sustainability is to create and maintain the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations.

United States Environmental Protection Agency







POLICY & FUNDING UPDATES

Joe Garrity & Brandi Whetstone, MORPC



CHARGING & FUELING INFRASTRUCTURE (CFI) DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM



Competitive grant program designed to strategically deploy publicly accessible EV charging & alternative fueling infrastructures within a community and along designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs).

- 2 program tracks:
 - Community Program make chargers more accessible in parking facilities, public buildings, public schools, public parks → \$350M
 - Corridor Program continuing to build chargers along AFCs → \$350M
- MORPC is leading a regional approach
- Application deadline May 30, 2023
- For more information, contact Brian Filiatraut, <u>bfiliatraut@morpc.org</u>



Scan for more information



CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANTS (CPRG) PROGRAM



Two-staged program providing states and local governments funds to develop and implement plans to mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other harmful air pollution.

- Phase 1: \$1M formula-based planning grant for the Columbus MSA -Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Hocking, Licking, Madison, Morrow, Perry, Pickaway, & Union counties
- MORPC co-leading with City of Columbus on a regional approach
- Need to be part of Phase 1: Planning Grant to apply for Phase II: Implementation Grant
- Application deadline May 31, 2023
- Contact Brian Filiatraut, <u>bfiliatraut@morpc.org</u>



Scan for more information



ENERGY EFFICIENCY COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT (EECBG) PROGRAM



Formula-based and competitive grant opportunities to implement strategies that reduce energy use and emissions and improve energy efficiency.



Scan for more information

Formula-Eligible Local Government Funds | US DOE

- Eligible in Central Ohio: Columbus, Delaware (city), Dublin, Franklin County, Gahanna, Grove City, Hilliard, Lancaster, Mansfield, Marion, Newark, Reynoldsburg, Upper Arlington, Westerville
- Pre-award info sheet is due April 28, 2023; full application deadline January 31, 2024

Competitive Funds | US DOE

- Eligible: small-medium local governments that are ineligible for formula grant. Collaborative applications are encouraged
- Concept paper is due June 5, 2023; full application deadline August 7, 2023





SUSTAINABILITY UPDATES

Brandi Whetstone, Sustainability Officer April 19, 2023

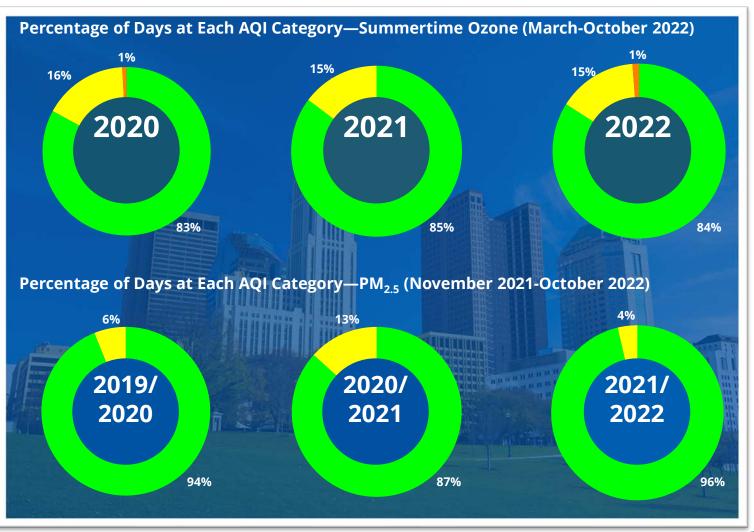




AIR QUALITY



- MORPC submitted comment letter to U.S. EPA regarding strengthening the PM2.5 standards
- Response to IQAir report "Clearing the Air" about Columbus particulate matter pollution.
- 2021/2022 annual report
 - 96% of all days were in the Good AQI category.
 - 12th consecutive year without exceeding the standard.





COLUMBUS SOLAR CO-OP







EARTH DAY 2023

April 22, 2023:

Earth Day Columbus and Celebrate Trails Day Genoa Park, 303 W. Broad St. 12pm-9pm

May 1-5, 2023:

Air Quality Awareness Week: Working Together for Clean Air

Please like and share MORPC social media posts









AGENDA



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- 2:55 Policy & Funding Updates Joe Garrity & Brandi Whetstone, MORPC
- 3:15 MORPC Sustainability Updates Brandi Whetstone, MORPC
- 3:25 Working Group & Board Updates
 - Sustaining Scioto Board Glenn Marzluf
 - Sustainable2050 Brandi Whetstone
 - Energy & Air Quality Working Group *Matt Stephens-Rich*
 - Central Ohio Greenways Board Mike Andrako
- 3:45 New Business and Member Updates Ben Kessler, Chair
- 4:00 Adjourn Ben Kessler, Chair



Central Ohio Greenways Board (Chair: Mike Andrako, P.E.) Next meeting: May 17, 2023

The COG Board met on March 3rd for a COG Board Retreat. The goal of the retreat was to review COG's Strategic Plan Progress and discuss priorities for an updated strategic plan. During the retreat the Board discussed how to make progress through partnership, funding, and marketing opportunities.

- The COG Trail Development working group is offering advice for MORPC's technical assistance program, an updated trail count program, and trail vision refinements.
- The Marketing Working Group is advising website upgrades, social media calendar development, the wayfinding project, and a trail town framework development.
- COG is supporting the Rails to Trails Conservancy and Green Columbus's Celebrate Trails Day event on April 22^{nd.}
- An updated Outdoor Trails Pass will be released in partnership with experience Columbus in April 2023. The updated pass will include curated route itineraries.
- COG partners will install 5 new permanent trail counters along the Ohio to Erie Trail in April.
- MORPC has signed a contract with Designing Local to begin a Wayfinding Strategy
- MORPC has signed a contract extension with Cycle Forward to begin a second phase of the Trail Town Framework.



Energy & Air Quality Working Group (Chair: Matt Stephens-Rich) Next meeting: May 23, 2023

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group met on March 28. Jennifer Van Vlerah, Assistant Chief with Ohio EPA's Division of Air Pollution, presented on the proposed strengthening of federal standards for PM2.5, or particulate matter pollution. The MORPC team provided policy and program updates. The working group will hold its next meeting, virtually, from 1:00 – 2:30 PM on May 27.

The Subcommittee on Power Siting Issues held its third meeting on March 3. The group reviewed the first draft of the resource hub and engagement strategy on MORPC's approach to educate, engage, and empower communities on SB 52 and all aspects regarding utility-scale solar development. The subcommittee heard from the Ohio Power Siting Board highlighting the general siting process for utility-scale solar projects with an in-depth look at SB 52. The next meeting will be held April 18 focusing on the PILOT provisions granted to utility-scale solar projects in Ohio.

Energy Updates: Brian Filiatraut, bfiliatraut@morpc.org

<u>Columbus Area Residential Solar Co-op:</u> The second round of the Columbus Area Residential Solar Co-op will kickoff Wednesday, April 19 from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at IMPACT Community Action (IMPACT CA), 711 Southwood Ave. The co-op is a collaborative effort among the City of Columbus, Solar United Neighbors (SUN), MORPC, and IMPACT Community Action.

<u>Federal Funding Opportunities</u>: In partnership with City of Columbus and Smart Columbus, MORPC will be going after \$15M to build out a regional approach to EV charging stations in Central Ohio through the US DOT Charging & Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program. The CFI's focus is on placing public chargers along Alternative Fuel Corridors and within communities in order to make EV charging more accessible. If you are interested in being a part of this regional EV charging build out, please reach out to Brian Filiatraut, Energy & Sustainability Program Coordinator at MORPC (<u>bfiliatraut@morpc.org</u>), as soon as possible given this program's deadline is May 30, 2023.

Additionally, MORPC is co-leading with City of Columbus, along with Ohio EPA, on a regional planning approach through the US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program Planning I: Planning Grant to conduct a regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory, develop mitigation goals and strategies, and to position the region for Phase II: Implementation Grants. We are seeking letters of support and if your community is interested in being a part of this regional approach, please contact Brian Filiatraut as soon as possible given this program's deadline is May 31, 2023.

Air Quality Updates: Prince Kwarteng-Crooklynn, pkwarteng@morpc.org

<u>Air Quality Forecasting and Alerts:</u> There have been no Air Quality Alerts issued since June 2022. Ozone monitoring season started March 1. As temperatures and sunlight increase, we may experience elevated ozone levels. Sign up for Air Quality Alerts at www.morpc.org/airquality.

Education and Outreach: MORPC has reviewed the recently released 2022 World Air Quality Report by IQAir, which reports on the status of PM2.5 pollution around the world. The report is valuable for highlighting global pollution issues and the need for more data and action to reduce pollution levels and protect our most vulnerable communities. However, the report identifies Columbus, OH as the most polluted major city in the U.S. based on the report's 2022 pollution calculations, which is misleading. MORPC continues to seek clarification on the report's methodology and has identified areas for further consideration that could lead to the mischaracterization of Central Ohio's air quality. For the full statement, please contact Prince Kwarteng-Crooklynn.

<u>National Air Quality Awareness Week:</u> Air Quality Awareness Week is May 1-5, 2023. The theme for this year is "Working Together for Clean Air". MORPC works in coordination with other MPOs across the state to promote consistent messages and themes throughout AQ Awareness week. Information will highlight resources that increase air quality awareness and encourage people to take action and incorporate air quality knowledge into their daily living.



Sustainable2050

Next meeting: June 22, 2023

MORPC held a Sustainable2050 meeting on March 24 with a presentation from SWACO's Executive Director, Joe Lombardi, and an introduction by MORPC of the Sustainability Toolkit for members, which is currently under development. The team is also encouraging coordination with members on federal funding opportunities for

EV infrastructure and the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. The next quarterly meeting is on Thursday, June 22 at 9:30am. Membership and tier status certification is open to MORPC members.

Please contact MORPC's Sustainability Officer, Brandi Whetstone, for more information at bwhetstone@morpc.org.



Sustaining Scioto Board (Chair: Glenn Marzluf)

Next Meeting: April 26, 2023

In February, members of the Board welcomed new members and continued discussions around Board priorities for the new year including the development of a regional water management plan. On April 26, Sustaining Scioto Board members will have a chance to participate in a Field Day during the next Board meeting. This event is organized by the Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team. The field day will focus on water quality practices in the watershed, and members will be able to tour

a site and learn more about water conservation practices.

Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team:

The working team met on March 16 with members finalizing Field Day plans scheduled for April 26. The team welcomed its newest member, Lauren Hirtle with the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA). Ms. Hirtle also provided an overview of policy work at OEFFA. The working team will meet again on May 18.

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE



2023 Meeting Schedule*

- June 21
- September 20
- December 13
- *All meetings occur 2:30-4:00PM



Ben Kessler

Chair Sustainability Advisory Committee bkessler@bexley.org

Laurie Jadwin

Vice-Chair Sustainability Advisory Committee laurie.jadwin@gahanna.gov

Brandi Whetstone

Sustainability Officer
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
bwhetstone@morpc.org



